

REMARKS

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Final Office Action dated July 27, 2005, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire October 27, 2005. Claim 12 has been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found on page 2, lines 4-19, and in Figure 9 – bushing parts 52 and 58. Claim 21 has been canceled. No new claims have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Claims 12-14 are pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,949,535 to King Jr. (hereinafter referred to as “King”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

King discloses a joint having a plurality of work pieces with aligned holes and with a tubular member in the holes (Abstract). King teaches that the tubular member is expanded into contact with the work pieces to coldwork the work pieces (Abstract). In Figures 16, 20 and 21, King discloses a tubular member 110' having an additional seamless tubular cylindrical section 214 around a portion of the outside of the tubular member 110' (column 17, lines 46-49). King teaches that the purpose of the additional seamless tubular cylindrical section 214 is to enlarge the work piece adjacent the additional seamless tubular cylindrical section 214 by a greater amount than the work piece adjacent the tubular member 110' (column 17, lines 62-65).

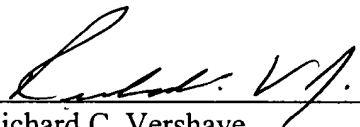
Applicants' claim 12 recites, *inter alia*, “the second radial flange of the second tubular section positioned opposite the first radial flange of the first tubular section” and “the radial expansion further causing the first radial flange to be moved axially, relatively closer to the second radial flange.” These claimed features, among others, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by King. Accordingly, King does not anticipate claim 12. In addition, claims 13

and 14, which depend from claim 12, are also allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable. Examiner Omgba is encouraged to contact Mr. Vershave by telephone to discuss the above and any other distinctions between the claims and the applied references, if desired. All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard C. Vershave  
Registration No. 55,907

RCV:jr

Enclosure:  
Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092  
Phone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

320043.427D1 / 676394v1